Allocation of funds to NER for rural development programmes

672. SHRI DWIJENDRANATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allotted to NER during the last three years under different rural development programmes; and

(b) the number of persons likely to get employment as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The details of funds allotted to NER including Sikkim during the last three years under different rural development programmes are given below:

Year	Funds allotted (Rs. in crores)
2001-2002	1246.50
2002-2003	1287.00
2003-2004	1397.01

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development has two employment oriented programmes namely Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for self employment and Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) for wage-employment. Under SGSY, about 2.73 lakh swarozgaries have been assisted to take up economic activities during the three year period from 2001-2002 to 2003-2004. Under SGRY, the total number of mandays of employment generated during this period was 2483.99 lakhs.

Problem of cotton growers

673. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this cotton season is of bumper crop both at home and abroad and with such a bumper crop, cotton prices have crashed both at national as well as international level;